Newspaper Report on MOP Import

1196. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "PMC halts Yadav move on MOP import" from Germany instead of Russia as published in the Financial Express, dated 17th November, 1995;

(b) whether there is any controversy between the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Agricuture over this deal; and

(c) the steps Government have taken so far to ensure that no adverse impact on the farm gate price of this important nutrient Muriate of Potash (MOP) for the Indian farmers takes place apart from temporary shortage and rise in prices etc. prevailing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Imports of Muriate of Potash (MOP), a decontrolled fertiliser, have been decanalised w.e.f. 17th June, 1993. There is no decision by Government to stop imports of MOP from any source including Russia.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No shortages have been reported of MOP availability in the country during 1995-96. After decontrol and consequent withdrawal of subsidy, the sale price of MOP has gone up. Govt. has been helping the farmers by giving an ad-hoc concession of Rs. 1000/- PMT since 1.10.1992.

Seminar on Education

1197. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day National Seminar on Value-based Education was held in Delhi during September, 1995,

(b) the recommendations made at the Seminar-cum-workshop; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on these recommendations so that a vigorous and effective national action plan for imparting value-based education can be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) organised a seminar-cum-workshop on Value Education in schools from 7th to 9th September, 1995 in Delhi.

(b) As per the information received from the Board, the seminar highlighted the component of Value Education in existing curriculum for promoting Value Education and covered topics like, practices followed for promoting Value Education in different schools, methodologies for promoting value Education, cultural contents of Value Education and orientation of teachers.

(c) The Board plans to evolve guidance for use in schools based on the recommendations of the seminar.

Agriculture at Par With Industry

1198. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are demanding that agriculture be treated as industry;

(b) if so, the implications of this demand; and

(c) whether the above demand suggests that land holdings be considered as the capital against which term loans be granted on the lines on which advances are granted to small, middle and big industrialists and that working capital be also granted on the same lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) There has been a general demand for treating agriculture at pat with industry which would imply extending benefits to agriculture sector as exist in industry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Production of Fertilizers

1199. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to U.Q. 4090 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April' 95 and state;

(a) the quantity of fertilizers to be imported during 1995-96, 1996-97;

(b) the import cost of such fertilizers per metric tonne; and

(c) the selling price of these fertilizers in the market?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Urea, Di-Anmonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) are three major fertilizers which are presently imported. DAP and MOP are decanalized fertilizers and can be imported freely. Urea is the only canalized item and is also under price and movement control. The gap between its production and consumption in the country is bridged from available stocks and imports.

During April to October, 1995, 18.04 lakh tonnes of urea at a total C&F cost of Rs. 1309.32 crores has been imported. It is not possible to indicate the level of impoorts of urea expected during 1996-97 as it depends upon a variety of factors like trend of indigenous production and consumption of fertilizers in the country, the behaviour of prices in the international market, the global demand and supply position, balance of payments, etc.

From the information available with the Department of Fertilizers, imports of DAP and MOP upto 30th September, 1995 have been 11.94 lakh metric tonnes and 9.41 lakh metric tonnes respectively. The Department does not have figures of value of these imports.

(c) The statutory maximum retails price of urea, which is the only fertiliser under price control, is Rs. 3320.00 per metric tonne. The prices of other fertilizers, namely DAP and MOP are determined by market forces of demand and supply.

Opening Mining Sector to China

1200. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China proposes to open its mining sector in India;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been received by Government from China in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) No formal proposal has been received from the Chinese Government. However, a Chinese delegation from Shougang Corporation visited National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) mines in May/June, 1993 and subsequently in April, 1994, and expressed their interest to have a joint venture with NMDC for mining of iron ore. No further developments have taken place.

Scientific Method of Cultivation

1201. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to introduce scientific method of cultivation in the present set of sub-division and fragmentation of holdings of land?